

REMARKS

Entry of the forgoing, prior to an examination on the merits, is respectfully requested.

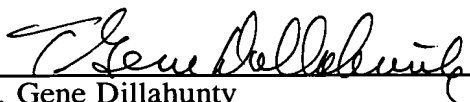
By the present second preliminary amendment, claims 48-80 have been added. Thus, claims 8-80 are pending and await consideration on the merits.

Claims 48-80 correspond to claims 1-9 of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/379,463, published as US 2003/0158472 on August 21, 2003. Claims 48-80 are presented herein in order to satisfy 35 U.S.C. 135(b)(2), and in anticipation of a potential Request for Interference to be filed at a later date.

Favorable consideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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